

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0805

FOR MALONE TO PASS JOHN F. CRAWFORD

FOR AF/W WALTER RAMSAY TO PASS TO DAVID MORSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, BBAK, EAGR, US, IV

SUBJECT: MEDIATION: LANG AFRIQUE AND SODESUCRE

REFERENCE (A) ABIDJAN 0343, (B) ABIDJAN 0685,
(C) JOHN F CRAWFORD/JOHN P. CRAWFORD TELECON, JAN 23.

1. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, MINISTERS SAWADOGO, DIAWARA, AND BEDIE WILL BE IN ABIDJAN FEBRUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 15. EMBASSY SUGGESTS JOHN F. CRAWFORD TELEX AS PLANNED. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S SPEECH REFERRED TO IN TELECON WAS DELIVERED ON OCTOBER 16 BEFORE THE 6TH CONGRESS OF THE PDCI-RDA.

2. JOHN P. CRAWFORD MET WITH MR. DAN ZUNICH, VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGINEERING, LANG ENGINEERING, THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 23. ACCORDING TO ZUNICH, REFINERY CANNOT RUN AT MORE THAN 50 PERCENT CAPACITY, BECAUSE FERRE I CANNOT ACCELERATE CANE CUTTING OPERATIONS. THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH MATURE OR MATURING CANE AT THIS TIME. HE IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THERE IS ONE MONTH'S "STEADY STATE" RUN AT 50 PERCENT CAPACITY, THIS WOULD SUFFICE TO REACH FINAL SETTLEMENT.

3. ACCORDING TO ZUNICH, MISALIGNMENT OF GEARS IS NO
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PROBLEM. ONLY SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT NEED BE MADE IN COUPLER

BOX AND THE MILLS COULD RUN FOR AS LONG AS 15 YEARS. THE PROBLEM WAS WITH THE BAGASSE CONVEYOR, ACCORDING TO ZUNICH, IS NOT THE WIDTH; IT IS A QUESTION OF SPEED AT WHICH IT IS RUN, AND A QUESTION OF FAILURE TO USE OVERFLOW CHUTE. BAGASSE SOMETIMES REMAINS ON THE CONVEYOR, OVERLOADS IT, AND BREAKS DOWN. IT HAS BROKEN DOWN FOUR TIMES THUS FAR THIS SEASON, BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO USE OVERFLOW CHUTE. ON ONE OCCASION, THE WEIGHT OF THE BAGASSE BROKE THE TAILSHAFT AND MANY OF THE FLIGHT DRAG CHAINS. HE BELIEVES THE OVERFLOW CHUTE IS NOW BEING USED CORRECTLY. BUT THE WRONG LUBRICANT IS STILL BEING USED IN THE REDUCERS, AND THE LUBRICANT IS FOAMING. HE THINKS THIS TOO WILL CHANGE.

4. ZUNICH IS CONFIDENT THAT IF SILVER DOES EVERYTHING HE ADVISED HIM TO DO, THE REFINERY WILL PROVE ITSELF WITH A GOOD "STEADY STATE" RUN FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.
COOKE

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